

FAMOUS PEACE TREATIES

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CONGRESS OF BERLIN, 1878.

A Peace Congress That Helped to Settle the Balkan Situation.

Some one somewhere remarked that the eastern question would perplex mankind until the day of judgment. Those fragments of nations which strew the Balkan peninsula are so divided in race, language and traditions that they dwell side by side in a state of constant discord and belligerency, no one race being able to assimilate the others—a melting pot in which nothing melts, but which is in a constant state of ebullition.

In 1875 the idea of pan-Slavism had become a strong sentiment in Russia. Pan-Slavism in Russia was answered by a revival of pan-Islamism in Turkey. Russian agents were everywhere in the peninsula stirring up the Christian populations and the Mussulman reaction and the increased tyranny of the Porte still further excited the peoples already stirred by pan-Slavist dreams.

Uprisings began; Serbia declared war on Turkey; Montenegro and Albania flew at each other's throats; the powers intervened and there were conferences, protocols and armistices, while the Turks put down the uprisings and defeated the Serbians and Montenegrins with great slaughter. The uprising in Bulgaria was put down by the Turks with such cruelty that the "Bulgarian massacres" stirred all Europe. Turkey remained deaf to the proposals of the "concert of Europe."

Declared War Against Turkey.

The patience of the czar was exhausted. On April 24, 1877, he gave orders for his armies to cross the Turkish frontier and declared war against Turkey. He had previously concluded an alliance with Roumania by which the Russian armies had the right of passage through that country and the Roumanian army was to co-operate with the army of Russia. England had acquiesced in the Russian move, provided the czar did not occupy Constantinople or the Dardanelles, let Egypt alone and recognized the neutrality of the Suez canal. Austria had been appeased by a secret pact with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina and by the vision dangled before her of an outlet on the east to the Aegean sea at Saloniki. The ostensible object of the war was to force the Porte to put into operation under European superintendence his promised reforms and to secure the autonomy of the subject states.

The Russians crossed the Danube in June, took Shipka pass in July and were defeated before Plevna in July and September. They defeated the Turks at Aladja Dag in Armenia in October and took Kars by storm in November. Plevna fell in December and the Russian army passed through the Balkans, and advanced to the outskirts of Constantinople. On March 3, 1878, a treaty was signed at San Stefano, a little port on the sea of Marmora between Russia and Turkey. A huge war indemnity was imposed on Turkey or in lieu thereof the cession to Russia of Barmoum, Kars, and Adahan in Asia and the Dobruja in Europe, the latter to be given to Roumania in exchange for Bessarabia, which would bring the Russian frontier to the mouth of the Danube. Serbia, Roumania and Montenegro were to be independent states, Montenegro and Serbia to have an accession of territory, and Bosnia and Herzegovina were to pass under the joint control of Russia and Austria. Bulgaria was to be erected into an autonomous principality extending from the Danube to the Aegean sea, which Russia was to occupy with an army of 50,000

men for two years and control by a Russian commissioner.

Czar Was Frightened.

All the Balkan peoples, except the Bulgarians, broke out into a tempest of protest upon the news of this treaty. Austria, who saw her dream of reaching the Aegean gone glimmering and even her control of Bosnia and Herzegovina shared by Russia, voted 60,000,000 gulden for war purposes and prepared to seize upon Bosnia. England called out the reserves, and Disraeli startled Europe by bringing Indian troops to Malta. The British fleet steamed into the sea of Marmora and lay near Constantinople. The "concert of Europe" demanded that the treaty be submitted to a congress of the powers. The coalition of Europe against him scared the czar and he consented. The congress of Berlin, therefore, met June 13, 1878. Before attending the congress Disraeli made a secret pact with the sultan by which England acquired complete control of Cyprus. The congress lasted until July 13. Bismarck presided and

Disraeli, Gorchakov the Russian, and Ambrosy the Austrian were the principal figures. Gorchakov and Disraeli fought each other tooth and nail. Once the Russian created a sensation by gathering up his papers and starting to leave the council room. At another time Disraeli startled the delegates by ordering a special train to take him to Calais. When the Cyprus convention came to light the diplomats felt that Disraeli had tricked them. That night he attended a reception. As he entered a silence fell upon the angry buzzing of the assembled statesmen. Disraeli understood.

"Of what are you thinking?" asked the Princess Radziwill.

"I am thinking of nothing," he replied; "I am enjoying myself."

The treaty as finally signed by the congress provided that Bulgaria should not extend south of the Balkans and the military occupation of Russia was reduced to nine months. The new state remained under the suzerainty of Turkey. Eastern Roumelia was given autonomy under the sultan. Montenegro lost half the gains of territory promised her, but received a port on the Adriatic. Serbia was extended at the expense of Bulgaria. Russia kept Barmoum and Kars. Bosnia and Herzegovina were to be occupied by Austria indefinitely. Roumania and Serbia were granted complete independence, but the arrangement of San Stefano with regard to Bessarabia and the Dobruja stood.

"We bring peace with honor," said Lord Salisbury when he and Disraeli returned to England.

TREATY OF ADRIANOPLE, 1829.

Independence of Greece Recognized by Turkey and Russia.

The modern kingdom of Greece came into being by a treaty signed at Adrianople in 1829 between Russia and Turkey, by which the Grecian captivity of 350 years was ended. Most of this time Greece was subject to Turkey—but not always. During the latter Middle Ages the Venetians and other foreign rulers temporarily established their power there. In 1715 the Turks drove out the Venetians, who had established themselves on the Grecian peninsula 28 years before, and ruled undisturbed until the beginning of the Greek insurrection in 1821. The city of Athens rose and compelled the Turks to take refuge in the Acropolis; a constitution was proclaimed on the first day of the next year; Ali Pasha, the Turkish general, was defeated and killed by the revolutionists; the Turks took the revolted island of Solo with horrible cruelties; the Greeks captured Napoli di Romania. A large part of Greece fell into the hands of the revolutionists.

The war continued, with the Greeks generally successful, until 1825. The imagination of Europe had been stirred by the idea of a revival of a nation that was the ancient home of arts and letters, and Byron had lent his money and his name to the Grecian cause, to die at Missolonghi, in the Greek service. Russia was ready to interfere, but the governments of the western nations had no idea of making war for sentimental reasons.

Western Powers Take Notice.

Early in 1825 Mehmet Ali, the great viceroy of Egypt, who had an eye on the throne of Constantinople, put 17,000 men into the Morea under his adopted son Ibrahim, who captured Navarino and the island of Sphagia, which lies before it. Early the next year Ibrahim was joined by a Turkish army under Reshid Pasha and Missolonghi was taken after a six-months' siege. All that part of Greece not occupied then by Turks and Egyptians was now under the influence of Kolokotroni, a mere Russian agent. The western powers began to "sit up and take notice." It looked as if the czar and the sultan were about to divide Greece between them. The Grecian question, from being one of sentiment had become one of practical politics.

Delegates of Russia, France and England met in London and, on July 27, 1827, signed a convention which established, on paper, a kingdom of Greece. In August the fleets of England, France and Russia blockaded the Turco-Egyptian fleet of over 90 men-of-war, lying in the harbor of Navarino. On October 26 the allied fleets entered the harbor, and, after a battle of five hours, totally destroyed the Turco-Egyptian fleet. Strangely enough, neither France, Russia nor England had yet declared war against Turkey, which still claimed Greece as a Turkish province, in spite of the convention of London. The sultan, naturally enough, enraged at the battle of Navarino, declared all treaties at an end, and the ambassadors of the three powers left Constantinople. Russia declared war against Turkey in April of 1828. A French army occupied the Morea, but otherwise England and France remained idle spectators of the war which ensued.

Russian Army Successful.

The Russian army crossed the Pruth in May, but winter came and they were still unable to pierce the Balkans. The next summer, however, the Russians passed over the mountains and appeared before Adrianople, which at once surrendered. A Russian army fighting in Asia had also been successful. Russia had entered European Turkey with 150,000 men, but only 40,000 of them reached Adrianople and those so worn with battle and disease that they could neither advance nor retreat, while between Adrianople and Constantinople the sultan had 20,000 fresh troops. Nevertheless, the czar had boasted that he had 600,000 men, to loan his friends, and a million and a half to fight his enemies, and rumor exaggerated the force of Russians before Adrianople to 700,000. Turkey was practically "bought" into signing a treaty, which she did at Adrianople on September 14, 1829, recognizing the independence of Greece and granting to Russia freedom of navigation of the Black sea, the Danube and the Dardanelles, and confirming and extending the protectorate of the czar over the Danubian principalities. The Turkish and Egyptian troops in Greece withdrew and the new kingdom became a fact.



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At Least He Was There.

When he was minister of the interior in the Sarrien cabinet, M. Clemenceau, prescribed for the functionaries of his department precise office hours which were to be rigorously observed. One day, early in the afternoon, he called his bureau chief, Mr. Winter, and said: "Let us take a turn in the bureau." Obviously his command had had little effect. Office after office was found empty. At last, in a nook under the roof, they came upon a poor devil of a clerk who, overcome by the heat, had fallen asleep at his desk. Mr. Winter sprang forward to shake and rouse him, but Mr. Clemenceau checked him: "Sapristi! But, no! Don't wake him, or he, too, may run away!"

Both Got There.

"Sammy" Coles of Luxborough, West Somerset, England, a famous pedestrian preacher, during 40 years walked 35,000 miles to keep preaching engagements.

When war broke out Capt. John MacGregor, M. C., D. C. M. Canadian mounted rifles, who has been awarded the Victoria cross, snowshoed over 100 miles to join the colors.

Why shouldn't soldiers sleep on their knapsacks? The enemy knocked a man down and then a friend proceeded to kick him.

Mitigations.

Mrs. Gabby—Husbands are just worms, that's what they are. Mrs. Tabby—That's all right if they're not fishing worms.

Dr. Peery's "Dead Shot" not only expels Worms or Tapeworm but cleans out the mucus in which they breed and tones up the digestion. One dose sufficient. Adv.

FELT SOLDIER SPOKE TRUTH

No Doubt Colonel Blank, in His Heart, Realized Just How Tough He Did Look.

Colonel Blank, who had been such a tartar at all inspections that his name was a byword in his regiment, was in the thick of the Argonne fighting and for six days was unable to shave. For six days he was unable to pry the mud from his clothes or rake it from his hair. And in this unfamiliar state he was halted at the end of the sixth day by a doughboy who seized a moment of leisure to shave by a mirror hung on a knife stuck in a tree.

"Hey, there, Buddie!" the doughboy shouted. "Do you know you look like h—? Better come up and get a shave or Colonel Blank will land on you like a ton of bricks!"

Colonel Blank accepted the invitation.—Stars and Stripes.

The Elephants.

Little Bobby was taken to see the welcome home parade. His previous experience with parades had been limited to those of Ringling Bros. After watching the passing lines of soldiers for about half an hour, he turned to his mother and asked, "When will the elephants get here?" —Indianapolis News.

It isn't pride that makes the gallery gods look down upon the rest of the audience.

Tip to Authors.

A youthful aspirant applied to a successful authoress for advice as to how to succeed in literature. "You need indomitable perseverance, a type-writer and a mangle," was the reply. "Do you mean I had better take in washing?" asked the aspirant. "Nonsense! You need the mangle to take the creases out of your manuscripts. Mangle them well, and then, unless the editors have burned them with cigarette ash, no one can tell they have been out before."

Female Executioner.

According to the London Sunday Times of February 15, 1829, the hangman who executed Burke had a wife whom he had instructed in the art and mystery of hanging. Dressed in man's attire, while he was executing criminals in one part of the country, his lady was giving effect to the law in another. Burke, it may be recalled, was an Irishman, who was in the habit of suffocating his victims and selling their bodies to the anatomists. He was hanged at Edinburgh on January 28.

Inquisitive Bird.

Some birds are awfully curious, and want to know what is going on. So if they see a human being in their neighborhood they will come close to investigate and perhaps, to scold, and one of these birds is the Kentucky warbler, says the American Forestry association, Washington. This bird has a preference for woods which are low and damp and ordinarily keeps well within the depths of tangled thickets. It ranges throughout the eastern United States, spends its winter in northern South America.

Exotic the Nightingale.

The hermit thrush is declared to be the most talented and brilliant singer in the world, not even excepting the nightingale, says the American Forestry association, Washington. As musicians all the thrushes are gifted but the hermit thrush is the prize singer of the tribe. The tail of this little bird is of a reddish brown, much brighter than the back and head, while the breast is quite heavily spotted with white. It winters in the Gulf states and migrates to the north in the fall.

German Siege of Paris.

The siege of Paris began on September 15, 1870, and ended on January 28, 1871, when the city surrendered. German troops entered the city in March, 1871, and remaining 45 hours. The eastern part of Paris was bombarded by the Germans on January 8, 1871, and about a week later there was a general bombardment, in which many buildings were damaged and a number of persons killed. After the latter bombardment France appealed to the neutral powers, but received no response.

Various Falls.

"Fall in" is an old military command, originating in the idea of giving up individuality, and becoming part of the military machine, when in line. Fall means more than "tumble," as for instance, "to fall from grace," "to fall asleep," "befall," etc. It is also used in the sense of classifying "to fall into place," which may give the derivation desired.

A stock is none the more costly for being rare.